AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 22, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 8, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 19, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 23, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005-06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2712

Introduced by Assembly Member Leno (Coauthor: Assembly Member Parra)

February 24, 2006

An act to amend Section 2079.10a of, and to add Section 2079.10b to, the Civil Code, and to amend Sections 290.4 and 290.46 of the Penal Code, relating to sex offenders.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2712, as amended, Leno. Housing: sex offenders.

Existing law requires persons who have been convicted of specified sex offenses to register as—a sex—offender offenders with the Department of Justice and local law enforcement agencies in which they reside. Existing law also requires the department to make certain information regarding registered sex offenders available on the department's Web site. Existing law further provides that a lease or rental agreement and every contract for sale of real property to a registered sex offender contain a notice, as specified.

Existing law generally provides that upon delivery of this notice to the lessee or transferee of real property, the lessor, seller, or broker is not required to provide any additional information other than that regarding proximity of sex offenders. AB 2712 — 2 —

This bill would, instead, provide that upon delivery of this notice, the lessor of the real property is not required, and has no duty to provide a lessee or transferee of residential real property, any additional information other than that regarding proximity of sex offenders, nor shall the delivery of the notice to the lessee or transferee of the real property create a special relationship between the lessor and the lessee or transferee.

This bill would—also provide that no duty—arising shall arise for a lessor solely for renting or leasing residential real property to a person who is required to register as a sex offender in this state or has been convicted as a sex offender in another jurisdiction.

Existing law provides that a person may use information obtained from the Department of Justice Sex Offender Web site only to protect a person at risk.

This bill would specify that this authorization is discretionary, and creates no duty to use the information.

This bill would declare the Legislature's intent with respect to the lessor's rights and obligations when property is rented or leased to registered sex offenders.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the 2 following:
- 3 (a) Lessors have certain duties under existing law in 4 connection with tenants of residential real property. However, 5 current law needs to be clarified regarding a lessor's duties 6 related to the tenancy of an individual who is required to register
- related to the tenancy of an individual who is required to register as a sex offender under Section 290 of the Penal Code.
- 8 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to clarify 9 landlord duties related to such tenancies by finding that the 10 following is declaratory of existing law:
- 11 (1) Subparagraph (1) of paragraph Paragraph (1) of 12 subdivision (l) of Section—290 290.46 of the Penal Code, and
- 13 subparagraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 290.4 of the Penal
- 14 Code-does do not impose a duty on lessors to use information
- 15 available on the Megan's Law Web site to make decisions about
- 16 housing accommodations.

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(2) Delivery of the notice to lessees or transferees of real property contained in subdivision (a) Section 2079.10a of the Civil Code is the only information that a lessor or transferor is required to provide to a lessee or transferee of real property regarding the proximity of a registered sex offender.

(3)

- (2) No duty is created solely because a lessor rents or continues to rent to a person who is registered or is required to register under Section 290 of the Penal Code, or has been convicted of a sex offense in another state or foreign jurisdiction.
- (c) The Legislature further finds and declares that these provisions do not enlarge or diminish other duties or rights that a lessor may have under other laws.
- SEC. 2. Section 2079.10a of the Civil Code is amended to read:
- 2079.10a. (a) Every lease or rental agreement for residential real property entered into on or after July 1, 1999, and every contract for the sale of residential real property comprised of one to four dwelling units entered into on or after that date, shall contain, in not less than 8-point type, a notice as specified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).
- (1) A contract entered into by the parties on or after July 1, 1999, and before September 1, 2005, shall contain the following notice:
- Notice: The California Department of Justice, sheriff's departments, police departments serving jurisdictions of 200,000 or more, and many other local law enforcement authorities maintain for public access a database of the locations of persons required to register pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 290.4 of the Penal Code. The database is updated on a quarterly basis and is a source of information about the presence of these individuals in any neighborhood. The Department of Justice also maintains a Sex Offender Identification Line through which inquiries about individuals may be made. This is a "900" telephone service. Callers must have specific information about individuals they are cheeking. Information regarding neighborhoods is not available through the "900" telephone service.
- (2) A contract entered into by the parties on or after September 1, 2005, and before April 1, 2006, shall contain either the notice

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1 specified in paragraph (1) or the notice specified in paragraph 2 (3).

- (3) A contract entered into by the parties on or after April 1, 2006, shall contain the following notice:
- Notice: Pursuant to Section 290.46 of the Penal Code, information about specified registered sex offenders is made available to the public via an Internet Web site maintained by the Department of Justice at www.meganslaw.ca.gov. Depending on an offender's criminal history, this information will include either the address at which the offender resides or the community of residence and ZIP Code in which he or she resides.
- (b) Subject to subdivision (c), upon delivery of the notice to the lessee or transferee of the real property, the lessor is not required, and has no duty in law, to provide to a lessee or transferee of residential real property any information in addition to that contained in the notice regarding the proximity of registered sex offenders. The information in the notice shall be deemed to be adequate to inform the lessee or transferee about the existence of a statewide database of the locations of registered sex offenders and information from the database regarding those locations. The information in the notice shall not give rise to any cause of action against the disclosing party by a registered sex offender, nor shall the delivery of the notice to the lessee or transferee of the real property create a special relationship between the lessor and the lessee or transferee.
- (c) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), nothing in this section shall alter any existing duty of the lessor, seller, or broker under any other statute or decisional law including, but not limited to, the duties of a lessor, seller, or broker under this article, or the duties of a seller or broker under Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 1102) of Chapter 2 of Title 4 of Part 4 of Division 2.
- (d) (1) For purposes of this section, "lessor" includes all of the following:
- (A) An owner, landlord, seller, or broker of residential property, or his or her agent, or any agent of the transferor or transferee of residential property.
- 38 (B) An owner or landlord of a mobilehome park or 39 manufactured housing community, or his or her agent.

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(2) For purposes of this section, "lessee" includes all persons who hire dwelling units located within this state, as provided in Section 1940, and all persons who hire a site or lot within a mobilehome park or manufactured housing community.

SEC. 3.

- SEC. 2. Section 2079.10b is added to the Civil Code, to read: 2079.10b. (a) No duty shall arise for a lessor solely for renting *or leasing* residential real property to a person who is registered or who is required to register under Section 290 of the Penal Code, or who is a person who has been convicted as a sex offender in another state or foreign jurisdiction.
- (b) This section is not intended to enlarge or diminish shall not alter in any way any other duty or right that a lessor may have under other laws with respect to a tenant *or lessee* of residential real property or a mobilehome park or manufactured housing community.
- (c) This section shall not alter in any way duties that a transferor or his or her agent may have for the sale of residential real property comprised of one to four dwelling units.
- (c) (1) For purposes of this section, "lessor" includes all of the following:
- (A) An owner, A landlord, seller, or broker or his or her agent, of residential real property, or his or her agent, or any agent of the transferor or transferee of residential property.
- (B) An owner or landlord his or her agent of a mobilehome park or manufactured housing community, or his or her agent community.
- (2) For purposes of this section, "lessee" includes all persons who hire dwelling units located within this state, as provided in Section 1940, and all persons who hire a site or lot within a mobilehome park or manufactured housing community.
 - SEC. 3. Section 290.4 of the Penal Code is amended to read:
- 290.4. (a) The department shall operate a service through which members of the public may provide a list of at least six persons on a form approved by the Department of Justice and inquire whether any of those persons is required to register as a sex offender and is subject to public notification. The Department of Justice shall respond with information on any person as to whom information may be available to the public via the Internet Web site as provided in Section 290.46, to the extent

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1 that information may be disclosed pursuant to Section 290.46.

- 2 The Department of Justice may establish a fee for requests,
- 3 including all actual and reasonable costs associated with the 4 service.
 - (b) The income from the operation of the service specified in subdivision (a) shall be deposited in the Sexual Predator Public Information Account within the Department of Justice for the purpose of the implementation of this section by the Department of Justice.

The moneys in the account shall consist of income from the operation of the service authorized by subdivision (a), and any other funds made available to the account by the Legislature. Moneys in the account shall be available to the Department of Justice upon appropriation by the Legislature for the purpose specified in subdivision (a).

- (c) (1) Any person who uses information disclosed pursuant to this section to commit a felony shall be punished, in addition and consecutive to, any other punishment, by a five-year term of imprisonment in the state prison.
- (2) Any person who, without authorization, uses information disclosed pursuant to this section to commit a misdemeanor shall be subject to, in addition to any other penalty or fine imposed, a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
- (d) (1) A person is authorized to use information disclosed pursuant to this section only to protect a person at risk. *This authorization does not create a duty to use the information*.
- (2) Except as authorized under paragraph (1) or any other provision of law, use of any information that is disclosed pursuant to this section for purposes relating to any of the following is prohibited:
- 32 (A) Health insurance.
- 33 (B) Insurance.
- 34 (C) Loans.
- 35 (D) Credit.
- 36 (E) Employment.
- 37 (F) Education, scholarships, or fellowships.
- 38 (G) Housing or accommodations.
- 39 (H) Benefits, privileges, or services provided by any business 40 establishment.

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(3) This section shall not affect authorized access to, or use of, information pursuant to, among other provisions, Sections 11105 and 11105.3 of this code, Section 226.55 of the Civil Code, Sections 777.5 and 14409.2 of the Financial Code, Sections 1522.01 and 1596.871 of the Health and Safety Code, and Section 432.7 of the Labor Code.

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- (4) (A) Any use of information disclosed pursuant to this section for purposes other than those provided by paragraph (1) or in violation of paragraph (2) shall make the user liable for the actual damages, and any amount that may be determined by a jury or a court sitting without a jury, not exceeding three times the amount of actual damage, and not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), and attorney's fees, exemplary damages, or a civil penalty not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).
- (B) Whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that any person or group of persons is engaged in a pattern or practice of misuse of the service specified in subdivision (a), in violation of paragraph (2), the Attorney General, any district attorney, or city attorney, or any person aggrieved by the misuse of the service is authorized to bring a civil action in the appropriate court requesting preventive relief, including an application for a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order against the person or group of persons responsible for the pattern or practice of misuse. The foregoing remedies shall be independent of any other remedies or procedures that may be available to an aggrieved party under other provisions of law, including Part 2 (commencing with Section 43) of Division 1 of the Civil Code.
- (e) The Department of Justice and its employees shall be immune from liability for good faith conduct under this section.
- (f) The public notification provisions of this section are applicable to every person described in subdivision (a), without regard to when his or her crimes were committed or his or her duty to register pursuant to Section 290 arose, and to every offense subject to public notification pursuant to Section 290.46, regardless of when it was committed.
- (g) On or before July 1, 2006, and every year thereafter, the Department of Justice shall make a report to the Legislature concerning the operation of this section.
 - SEC. 4. Section 290.46 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

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1 290.46. (a) On or before the dates specified in this section, 2 the Department of Justice shall make available information 3 concerning persons who are required to register pursuant to 4 Section 290 to the public via an Internet Web site as specified in this section. The department shall update the Internet Web site on 5 an ongoing basis. All information identifying the victim by name, 6 birth date, address, or relationship to the registrant shall be excluded from the Internet Web site. The name or address of the person's employer and the listed person's criminal history other than the specific crimes for which the person is required to 10 register shall not be included on the Internet Web site. The 11 Internet Web site shall be translated into languages other than 12 13 English as determined by the department. 14

- (b) (1) On or before July 1, 2005, with respect to a person who has been convicted of the commission or the attempted commission of any of the offenses listed in, or who is described in, paragraph (2), the Department of Justice shall make available to the public via the Internet Web site his or her name and known aliases, a photograph, a physical description, including gender and race, date of birth, criminal history, the address at which the person resides, and any other information that the Department of Justice deems relevant, but not the information excluded pursuant to subdivision (a).
- (2) This subdivision shall apply to the following offenses and offenders:
- (A) Section 207 committed with intent to violate Section 261, 286, 288, 288a, or 289.
- 28 (B) Section 209 committed with intent to violate Section 261, 29 286, 288, 288a, or 289.
- 30 (C) Paragraph (2) or (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 261.
- 31 (D) Section 264.1.
- 32 (E) Section 269.

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- 33 (F) Subdivision (c) or (d) of Section 286.
- 34 (G) Subdivision (a), (b), or (c) of Section 288, provided that 35 the offense is a felony.
- 36 (H) Subdivision (c) or (d) of Section 288a.
- 37 (I) Section 288.5.
- 38 (J) Subdivision (a) or (j) of Section 289.

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(K) Any person who has ever been adjudicated a sexually violent predator as defined in Section 6600 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

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- 4 (c) (1) On or before July 1, 2005, with respect to a person 5 who has been convicted of the commission or the attempted 6 commission of any of the offenses listed in paragraph (2), the 7 Department of Justice shall make available to the public via the 8 Internet Web site his or her name and known aliases, a photograph, a physical description, including gender and race, 10 date of birth, criminal history, the community of residence and ZIP Code in which the person resides or the county in which the 11 12 person is registered as a transient, and any other information that 13 the Department of Justice deems relevant, but not the information 14 excluded pursuant to subdivision (a). On or before July 1, 2006, 15 the Department of Justice shall determine whether any person 16 convicted of an offense listed in paragraph (2) also has one or 17 more prior or subsequent convictions of an offense listed in 18 paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 290, and, for those 19 persons, the Department of Justice shall make available to the 20 public via the Internet Web site the address at which the person 21 resides. However, the address at which the person resides shall 22 not be disclosed until a determination is made that the person is, 23 by virtue of his or her additional prior or subsequent conviction of an offense listed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 24 25 290, subject to this subdivision.
 - (2) This subdivision shall apply to the following offenses:
 - (A) Section 220, except assault to commit mayhem.
 - (B) Paragraph (1), (3), or (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 261.
 - (C) Paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), or subdivision (f), (g), or (i), of Section 286.
 - (D) Paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), or subdivision (f), (g), or (i), of Section 288a.
 - (E) Subdivision (b), (d), (e), or (i) of Section 289.
 - (d) (1) On or before July 1, 2005, with respect to a person who has been convicted of the commission or the attempted commission of any of the offenses listed in, or who is described in, this subdivision, the Department of Justice shall make available to the public via the Internet Web site his or her name and known aliases, a photograph, a physical description, including gender and race, date of birth, criminal history, the

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community of residence and ZIP Code in which the person resides or the county in which the person is registered as a transient, and any other information that the Department of Justice deems relevant, but not the information excluded pursuant to subdivision (a) or the address at which the person resides.

- (2) This subdivision shall apply to the following offenses and offenders:
- (A) Subdivision (a) of Section 243.4, provided that the offense is a felony.
 - (B) Section 266, provided that the offense is a felony.
- (C) Section 266c, provided that the offense is a felony.
- 12 (D) Section 266j.

- 13 (E) Section 267.
- 14 (F) Subdivision (c) of Section 288, provided that the offense is a misdemeanor.
 - (G) Section 647.6.
 - (H) Any person required to register pursuant to Section 290 based upon an out-of-state conviction, unless that person is excluded from the Internet Web site pursuant to subdivision (e). However, if the Department of Justice has determined that the out-of-state crime, if committed or attempted in this state, would have been punishable in this state as a crime described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 290, the person shall be placed on the Internet Web site as provided in subdivision (b) or (c), as applicable to the crime.
 - (e) (1) If a person has been convicted of the commission or the attempted commission of any of the offenses listed in this subdivision, and he or she has been convicted of no other offense listed in subdivision (b), (c), or (d) other than those listed in this subdivision, that person may file an application with the Department of Justice, on a form approved by the department, for exclusion from the Internet Web site. If the department determines that the person meets the requirements of this subdivision, the department shall grant the exclusion and no information concerning the person shall be made available via the Internet Web site described in this section. He or she bears the burden of proving the facts that make him or her eligible for exclusion from the Internet Web site. However, a person who has filed for or been granted an exclusion from the Internet Web site is not relieved of his or her duty to register as a sex offender

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pursuant to Section 290 nor from any otherwise applicable provision of law.

(2) This subdivision shall apply to the following offenses:

- (A) A felony violation of subdivision (a) of Section 243.4.
- (B) Section 647.6, provided the offense is a misdemeanor.
- (C) (i) An offense for which the offender successfully completed probation, provided that the offender submits to the department a certified copy of a probation report, presentencing report, report prepared pursuant to Section 288.1, or other official court document that clearly demonstrates both of the following:
- (I) The offender was the victim's parent, stepparent, sibling, or grandparent.
- (II) The crime did not involve either oral copulation or penetration of the vagina or rectum of either the victim or the offender by the penis of the other or by any foreign object.
- (ii) An offense for which the offender is on probation at the time of his or her application, provided that the offender submits to the department a certified copy of a probation report, presentencing report, report prepared pursuant to Section 288.1, or other official court document that clearly demonstrates both of the following:
- (I) The offender was the victim's parent, stepparent, sibling, or grandparent.
- (II) The crime did not involve either oral copulation or penetration of the vagina or rectum of either the victim or the offender by the penis of the other or by any foreign object.
- (iii) If, subsequent to his or her application, the offender commits a violation of probation resulting in his or her incarceration in county jail or state prison, his or her exclusion, or application for exclusion, from the Internet Web site shall be terminated.
- (iv) For the purposes of this subparagraph, "successfully completed probation" means that during the period of probation the offender neither received additional county jail or state prison time for a violation of probation nor was convicted of another offense resulting in a sentence to county jail or state prison.
- (f) The Department of Justice shall make a reasonable effort to provide notification to persons who have been convicted of the commission or attempted commission of an offense specified in subdivision (b), (c), or (d), that on or before July 1, 2005, the

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 department is required to make information about specified sex offenders available to the public via an Internet Web site as specified in this section. The Department of Justice shall also make a reasonable effort to provide notice that some offenders are eligible to apply for exclusion from the Internet Web site.

- (g) (1) A designated law enforcement entity, as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 290.45, may make available information concerning persons who are required to register pursuant to Section 290 to the public via an Internet Web site as specified in paragraph (2).
- (2) The law enforcement entity may make available by way of an Internet Web site the information described in subdivision (c) if it determines that the public disclosure of the information about a specific offender by way of the entity's Internet Web site is necessary to ensure the public safety based upon information available to the entity concerning that specific offender.
- (3) The information that may be provided pursuant to this subdivision may include the information specified in subdivision (b) of Section 290.45. However, that offender's address may not be disclosed unless he or she is a person whose address is on the Department of Justice's Internet Web site pursuant to subdivision (b) or (c).
- (h) For purposes of this section, "offense" includes the statutory predecessors of that offense, or any offense committed in another jurisdiction that, if committed or attempted to be committed in this state, would have been punishable in this state as an offense listed in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 290.
- (i) Notwithstanding Section 6254.5 of the Government Code, disclosure of information pursuant to this section is not a waiver of exemptions under Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Title 1 of Division 7 of the Government Code and does not affect other statutory restrictions on disclosure in other situations.
- (j) (1) Any person who uses information disclosed pursuant to this section to commit a misdemeanor shall be subject to, in addition to any other penalty or fine imposed, a fine of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and not more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

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(2) Any person who uses information disclosed pursuant to this section to commit a felony shall be punished, in addition and consecutive to any other punishment, by a five-year term of imprisonment in the state prison.

- (k) Any person who is required to register pursuant to Section 290 who enters an Internet Web site established pursuant to this section shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), imprisonment in a county jail for a period not to exceed six months, or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- (*l*) (1) A person is authorized to use information disclosed pursuant to this section only to protect a person at risk. However, this This authorization is discretionary and does not create a duty to use the information.
- (2) Except as authorized under paragraph (1) or any other provision of law, use of any information that is disclosed pursuant to this section for purposes relating to any of the following is prohibited:
- 18 (A) Health insurance.
- 19 (B) Insurance.
- 20 (C) Loans.

- 21 (D) Credit.
- 22 (E) Employment.
 - (F) Education, scholarships, or fellowships.
- 24 (G) Housing or accommodations.
- 25 (H) Benefits, privileges, or services provided by any business 26 establishment.
 - (3) This section shall not affect authorized access to, or use of, information pursuant to, among other provisions, Sections 11105 and 11105.3, Section 8808 of the Family Code, Sections 777.5 and 14409.2 of the Financial Code, Sections 1522.01 and 1596.871 of the Health and Safety Code, and Section 432.7 of the Labor Code.
 - (4) (A) Any use of information disclosed pursuant to this section for purposes other than those provided by paragraph (1) or in violation of paragraph (2) shall make the user liable for the actual damages, and any amount that may be determined by a jury or a court sitting without a jury, not exceeding three times the amount of actual damage, and not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), and attorney's fees, exemplary damages, or a civil penalty not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

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(B) Whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that any person or group of persons is engaged in a pattern or practice of misuse of the information available via an Internet Web site established pursuant to this section in violation of paragraph (2), the Attorney General, any district attorney, or city attorney, or any person aggrieved by the misuse is authorized to bring a civil action in the appropriate court requesting preventive relief, including an application for a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order against the person or group of persons responsible for the pattern or practice of misuse. The foregoing remedies shall be independent of any other remedies or procedures that may be available to an aggrieved party under other provisions of law, including Part 2 (commencing with Section 43) of Division 1 of the Civil Code.

- (m) The public notification provisions of this section are applicable to every person described in this section, without regard to when his or her crimes were committed or his or her duty to register pursuant to Section 290 arose, and to every offense described in this section, regardless of when it was committed.
- (n) On or before July 1, 2006, and every year thereafter, the Department of Justice shall make a report to the Legislature concerning the operation of this section.
- (o) A designated law enforcement entity and its employees shall be immune from liability for good faith conduct under this section.